



July 15, 2003

Kay Turner, Agency Procurement Official
Materials Management
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
1200 N. University Dr.
Pine Bluff, AR 71601

Re: Advisory Opinion # 483-03-14

Dear Ms. Turner:

This letter is in response to your request for an advisory opinion in accordance with §19-11-715(b) of the Arkansas Code Annotated of 1987. Your request for an advisory opinion is based on the following facts:

- (a) Two departments at UAPB are receiving a total of \$14,000 in grants for a proposal review and to design a brochure.
- (b) You anticipate contracting Advantage Communications, owned by Michael Steele, brother of Senator Tracy Steele.
- (c) You are requesting an advisory opinion as to whether there is any prohibition or ethical conflict in contracting with advantage Communication.

As long as these transactions are conducted without any direct or indirect influence from Senator Steele, there is no ethical conflict. Governor's Executive Order #98-04 requires disclosure for transactions over \$25,000, so no disclosure is required.

This advisory opinion is issued in accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated §19-11-715(b) and compliance with the above course of conduct is deemed to constitute compliance with the ethical standards of the Act and EO 98-04.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Weiss
Director

cc: Joe Giddis
Tom Gay, Office of Atty. Gen.